**Seminar 4: Should the minimum wage be abolished or should it be regulated solely by the states rather than a shared system as currently exists?**

<http://www.dol.gov/oasam/programs/history/reich/reports/pay.htm>- Izzy This is a page on the government's Department of Labor website, which was composed in 1996 to outline reasons for the raising of the minimum wage on a national level. It includes a section about facts vs myths about raising the minimum wage, and talks about why raising it is needed. The whole article seems particularly relevant to the clip of the tv show we watched, discussing how much families need to survive.  
  
<http://www.dol.gov/whd/minwage/america.htm> - Izzy this is a map, again from the Department of Labor, showing which states meet the federal minimum wage requirements, which states have minimum wage rates higher than the government mandates, which have it set lower, and which have no minimum wage regulations at all.  
  
<http://raiseillinois.com/my-life-on-minimum-wage/> This article gives examples of several stories of people that live on minimum wage. They describe the basic hardships that they face while living this lifestayle, and breifely explain the job that they do. A few of these individuals have children and they describe the different challenges that this poses. A common problem amongst these indivduals is the difficulty of finding an affordable place to live, buying an adequate amount of food, and purchasing health insurance. This article can give a basis as to whether the mimimun wage enables a productive lifestyle. - Lilly  
  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/03/27/opinion/27sun2.html> This article discusses the benefits of increasing minimum wage. The article points out how the minimum wage is still lower than it was 30 years ago, after accounting for inflation. Opponents of rising minimum argue that raising the minimum wage would lead to higher unemployment. This argument is refuted when the article presents statistics that show a wage jump improved low-wage workers’ incomes and did not result in the ending of jobs. - Abby  
  
<http://www.npr.org/2011/04/24/135638370/does-a-higher-minimum-wage-kill-jobs>  
This article states that some lawmakers have been pushing to raise the state minimum wage up to $10.65 in steps over four years. So far, they have not been successful. No state has voted to increase the minimum wage this year. The problem with this is that the unemployment rate is still at 8.8 percent and elected officials don’t want to make any decisions that will discourage job creation. In some cases raising minimum wage will reduce the number of jobs. – Clay Barker  
  
<http://talkofliberty.com/abolish-minimum-wage/>  
This article states that the need for minimum wage is not needed. It is all a simple matter of supply and demand- Michael L  
  
<http://www.dol.gov/oasam/programs/history/reich/reports/pay.htm> - Caroline  
This article advocates for the raising of the minimum wage. It introduces facts about minimum wage and refutes popular myths about who the minimum wage workers in the United States actually are. It also discusses possible impacts to raising the minimum wage. (written in 1996)  
  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/03/27/opinion/27sun2.html?ref=minimumwage> This article shows evidence from studies by economists that raising the minimum wage will not have a bad effect on job increase and be a negative thing to do in our country's current economic system but it will only be better for people who recieve minimum wage. -Maeve  
  
<http://www.npr.org/blogs/money/2011/06/10/137064161/would-a-5-a-day-minimum-wage-make-life-better-in-haiti>  
This article explains how a $1 minimum wage is enough to just barely get by in Haiti, but even a $3 dollar minimum wage is still difficult, however, it is better. Those with a $3 minimum wage are less likely to have hungry families and are more likely to be able to send their kids to school. The article questions whether it would be better to make it even higher to a $5 minimum wage. - Sara  
  
<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/06/07/minimum-wage-increase-help-economy-experts_n_872617.html> - Caroline  
This article explains how raising the minimum wage could boost the economy, because low-wage earners would have no choice but to spend the extra money they make and therefore it would return to the local economy. It says that most American voters are in favor of raising the minimum wage and agree that it would have a positive effect on the economy. It also stresses that there is lots of political dispute over raising the minimum wage, and that it is difficult to compile political support for a raise because the U.S. Chamber of Commerce opposes the action.  
  
<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/10/27/herman-cain-minimum-wage_n_1035157.html>  
This article discusses the fact that the issue of minimum wage is a focus of the upcoming election. Michele Bachmann said he would consider lowering it. Ron Paul said he plans on getting rid of it completely. Cain's plan talks of lowering it. He said this would help impoverished areas. Cain explains that minimum wage laws keep lots of "unskilled and inexperienced workers (i.e. teens) from getting their first job." He also stresses that the marketplace should control wages, not the government. I disagree with all of these politicians opinions. I think that the minimum wages should be slowly raised. - Riley  
  
<http://thedailynewsegypt.com/economy/egypt-discussing-private-sector-minimum-wage.html> Greg  
A discussion on the minimum wage in Egypt due to its growing cost of living, but dropping wages and its effects on the economy.  
  
<http://money.cnn.com/2011/10/03/news/economy/minimum_wage/> - Oscar, this article talks about how eight states are going to raise the minimum wage to keep up with inflation. It also talks about how this is needed to boost the economy because America needs everyone to increase spending to keep the economy going.  
  
<http://morganpolotan.wordpress.com/2010/11/30/the-minimum-wage-good-bad-and-the-alternatives/> -Monica  
This article discusses where and why the concept of minimum wage came from. Pros and Cons of minimum wage. Raising min wage could hurt the economy and create LESS jobs, backfiring on the reason it was created.  
  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2010/05/24/nyregion/24wage.html?ref=minimumwage&pagewanted=print> -Maeve  
This article discusses the proposal of a bill in 2010 that was very controversial in New York that would change the minimum wage from $7.25 to $10. Many people were against it, including Mayor Bloomberg, for reasons that it would hurt the economy and it contributes to the idea in the article I posted above, that it wouldn't and it would only increase the productivity and whatnot of the economy and be a beneficial thing.  
  
<http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/eliminating-minimum-wage-slash-unemployment/story?id=13951494>  
This article discusses Michele Bachmann's stance on Minimum Wage. The article does not agree with some of her beliefs about what should be done about the issue. Heidi Shierholz, who is a labor market economist then summarizes where she believes what changes need to be made to Bachmann's proposals and plans. - Abby  
  
<http://www.epi.org/publication/briefingpapers_bp151/>  
In this article, a new perspective is introduced into our discussion. A raise in minimum wage would be beneficial for our society because I believe that the current minimum wage is not effective in the sense that it cannot provide workers with the necessary wage to provide for themselves, let alone their families. With the current economic struggle our country is facing, minimum wage jobs are extremely popular and it seems impossible to provide for a family with the current minimum wage, along with the brutal conditions a family is facing in poverty. This article briefly discusses the possibilities our country would face if we decided to raise the minimum wage, and also points out the flaws with the current minimum wage.  
-Alex  
  
<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052970203440104574402820278669840.html> This article brings a personal aspect into the discussion as it discusses the impact of the value of minimum wage on teen workers. Congress found that when minimum wage is increased, it is the least skilled and young workers who suffer becuase it is the least skilled workers who end up losing their jobs. Studies show that there are long term career benefits to working as a teenager, and these increases in wages and decreasees in job oppurtunities for teens can hurt this advantage. The article suggests an interesting idea of enacting a "teen wage" rate, that is lower than the federal minimum wage. Another important concept brought up by the article is that increasing the minimum wage, although it helps some people earn more, drives too many peoples salaray down to $0.00. - Lilly  
<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/32479344/ns/business-personal_finance/t/colorado-faces-minimum-wage-decrease/> This article shows how in 2009 there was a fear to the decrease in minimum wage in colorado, therefore letting Americans fear that this state might become an example of what is to come. - Fernando  
  
<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/43608810/ns/business-us_business/t/ending-minimum-wage-likely-wouldnt-dent-jobless-rate/#.Tq-6thxaJhs>  
This article discusses how ending minimum wage would have a positive effect in raising the unemployment rate of unskilled workers. Michele Bachmann was quoted saying this several years ago. In this article some economists support her reasoning and thought behind it while others believe that there will be no difference in employment if minimum wage was ended. The article points out how only 6 percent work at or below minimum wage, which was surprising because I would have expected a higher percentage. -Galen  
  
<http://www.dol.gov/whd/minwage/coverage.htm>  
Some background on the history of minimum wage - Fernando  
  
<http://smallbusiness.chron.com/problems-minimum-wage-2692.html>- This points out the weaknesses of minimum wage and what it halters. Tim Murphy